

PRESS RELEASE

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Lucy the raccoon picks WSU to win the Apple Cup!

SEATTLE—As the Huskies and Cougars head to what may be the wildest and biggest Apple Cup in three decades, Woodland Park Zoo's female raccoon, Lucy, joins the analysts in predicting the winner.

Today, the 1-year-old masked mammal took the handoff of the apple and rushed for the team helmet of her choice. Her pick to win the 2016 Apple Cup: the **Cougars**! See the video at <https://youtu.be/qH4f7eGO6Vg>.



"Lucy doesn't have a track record for picking winners yet, but she's fast on her feet and has been in training to make sure she was in top shape to make the pick for the Apple Cup," said Rachel Salant, collection manager for Woodland Park Zoo's ambassador animals. During training, Lucy was never directed to any specific helmet, explained Salant. "She headed to the helmet of her choice, I assure you. If you're a Huskies fan, you're going to hope Lucy picked inaccurately!"

This is the first year for Lucy to participate in a football pick. Woodland Park Zoo benched its female porcupine, Skyáana, because last year she picked the Cougars to win the Apple Cup, but they lost. "Much to the relief of Husky fans, Skyáana predicted the wrong winner," said Salant, "but it's all in fun. We'll see how Lucy does against Skyáana's 0-1 record."

Wild born in northern California, Lucy was taken to a rehabilitation facility after she was found abandoned, as a baby, by someone who tried to raise her as a pet. She was too imprinted on humans to survive in the wild so a year ago Woodland Park Zoo became her new home. Her favorite treats vary from dog kibble and raw chicken to grapes and peanut butter.

Lucy is a member of Woodland Park Zoo's new ambassador animals—a variety of animals trained or undergoing training by staff to showcase voluntary, natural behaviors. The new ambassador animals participate in engaging, up-close education programs at the zoo or off site at schools and community events. Other ambassador animals include a hornbill, a porcupine, an arctic fox, an opossum and a kookaburra.

Raccoons are intelligent, curious and dexterous creatures. To many homeowners, they are pests. Eating anything they can get their paws on, they will search for food by any means such as plundering home gardens, damaging crops or raiding garbage cans. Conflicts with raccoons or damage to homes and property can be avoided by following effective [recommendations](#) at home.

Zoo fall/winter hours: 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily. For more information and how to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500.

Woodland Park Zoo kicks off its fifth annual **WildLights presented by Sound Credit Union**, November 25, 2016 through January 1, 2017, 5:30-8:30 p.m. nightly. Visit zoo.org/wildlights to purchase tickets and for more information.

Free Wi-Fi is available for zoo guests, made possible through products donated by Cisco.

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